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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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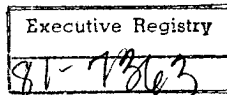
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TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
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12	Compt				
13	D/PA		X		
14	D/EE0				
15	D/PPPM				
16	AO/DCI				
17	PB/NSC				
18	Mr. Gates		X		
19	ES		X		
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22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks:



Washington, D. C. 20505



22 May 1981

Dear Bill,

I would appreciate it if you would have this TWXed to New York. I spoke to Max Frankel and he is expecting it.

Yours,

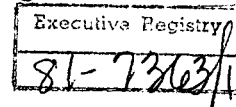
William J. Casey

Mr. William Safire
The New York Times
943 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 20045

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505



22 May 1981

To the Editor:

Your luridly titled editorial on Max Hugel becoming the Deputy Director for Operations of CIA asks what prompted the appointment. I had observed Mr. Hugel in action for a little over a year, some portion of that time at the head of the largest of CIA's four directorates. I liked what I saw. When the vacancy developed, I concluded, after considerable consultation with my colleagues, that his drive, clarity of mind and executive ability would, in combination with the experience and professional skills in the operational directorate, offer the best way to both strengthen and effectively run that directorate at the same time.

That decision was my responsibility and I can assure you it was made strictly on the merits, with no extraneous influence of any kind. I believe that the relationship between Mr. Hugel's abilities and experience, the experience and professional skills available to him and the requirements of the job is widely recognized among those who have worked and those who now work with him.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
William J. Casey

The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43 Street
New York, New York 10036

THE NEW YORK TIMES 22 May 1981

The Company Mr. Casey Keeps

A certain skepticism is in order when the intelligence brotherhood complains that amateurs are taking over the Central Intelligence Agency. The Bay of Pigs wasn't exactly an amateur production, save in its humiliating outcome. Nor were the abortive attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro in the 1960's. But in the matter of Max Hugel, a New Hampshire businessman now turned spymaster, the consternation among old C.I.A. hands is surely understandable.

Mr. Hugel's most visible qualification is his long-time friendship with the C.I.A.'s Director, William Casey. According to his official biography, Mr. Hugel served as a junior Army intelligence officer during World War II. He has had three months' experience as a middle-echelon administrator at the agency's Langley headquarters, a.k.a. The Company. With only this background, he has now been promoted to head the agency's directorate of operations, which controls covert actions and clandestine intelligence overseas.

Plainly, Mr. Casey wants a loyal associate in this peculiarly sensitive post, which has been described as the most difficult and dangerous in the Government after that of the President. And Mr. Hugel earned that confidence when he resigned as an electronics company executive to help win the crucial New Hampshire primary victory just as Mr. Casey assumed command of the Reagan campaign. Mr. Hugel's political skills impressed old hands in that state, though they otherwise know little about him.

Still, winning votes in New Hampshire is one thing. Knowing the national security byways of Washington is quite another. And presiding over spy networks requires even more sophisticated knowledge and experience. Mr. Hugel's appointment is not subject to Senate confirmation, unlike the positions of C.I.A. Director and Deputy Director. So as a matter of law, Mr. Casey has every right to appoint a chum as spymaster. As a matter of policy, the appointment is questionable.

The C.I.A. is unlike any other agency in the degree of trust it demands from Congress and the public. That trust was grievously abused in a period not long ended. Who can be surprised if there are fears of a replay in an Administration that talks loosely about "unleashing" the C.I.A.? These fears are fanned when an outsider with tenuous credentials is given command of The Company's most free-wheeling division.

For security reasons, the Senate Intelligence Subcommittee has been reluctant to delve too deeply into the agency's secret operations. But the command structure is a different matter. Mr. Casey — even the President — have an obligation to explain what prompted the Hugel appointment, and to spell out the constraints on covert operations. That much light won't compromise the agency and would allay justifiable fears. In a double sense, The Company that Mr. Casey keeps is the public's business.